

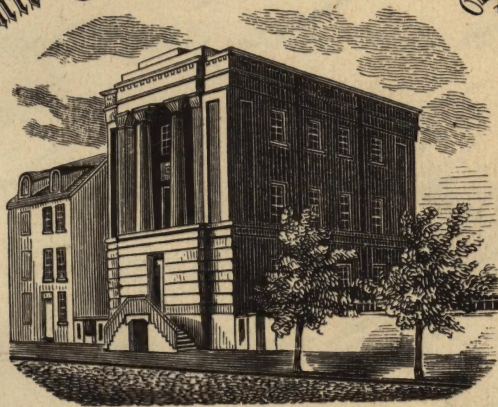


The Phenomena of Andropesia

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY

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FOR

The Degree of Doctor of Medicine

BY

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The Phenomena of Androlepsia. -

It is the special object of this article to discuss the manner in which Conception is effected, and to make some allusion to the wonderful character of that phenomenon which results in the creation of a new being.

We cannot in so brief a treatise enter minutely into the anatomy of the parts concerned; but shall proceed in the investigation of the subject with the understanding that the anatomy of the parts is better understood than is their function and relation to each other. -

(over)

It is however necessary to state that the human embryo exists first in a germinal cell which is imbedded in a yolk called the vitellus which is covered by an elastic transparent membrane called the vitelline membrane; all of which when taken together constitutes a human ovule. —

This is situated in a compact mass of granules called the granular membrane which fills what has been termed an ovarian or Graafian vesicle.

The walls of this vesicle consist internally of a tenacious membrane consisting of two layers and called the capsule; this is

invested by the proper ovarian tissue and external to the whole is the peritoneum. -

By this casual glance at the anatomy of the parts we perceive that the ovule being enveloped by many membranes, occupies a bed in the substance of the ovary. -

Nature, seemingly aware of the extreme delicacy and priceless worth of this germ cell, appears to have made special provision for its quiet preservation and uninterrupted development by, as it were, secreting it in what appears to be a closed sac covered by impermeable membranes, thus securing it from the risk of injury until it shall have

been sufficiently developed to be,
in some degree, able to preserve its
existence and vitality. —

To secure the complete
development of the germ, resulting
in a foetus, it is essential that
the fecundating properties of the
semen be transmitted to the
ovule containing the germ. —

It has been supposed by
some that this object was effected
somewhere in the Uterus or in
the Fallopian Tubes, at a time
just subsequent to that of
spontaneous ovulation: —

Others have thought that the
ovule was impregnated while yet
remaining in the vesicle of the
ovary; and that to accomplish

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this the Semen traversed the
whole circuit of the internal
surface of the Uterus and the
Fallopian Tube, and in some
incomprehensible manner
permeated the numerous membranous
envelopes before mentioned and
thus by actual contact imparted
its vitalizing properties to the
Ovule.

We agree with the class
of observers last mentioned, that
impregnation occurs while the
ovule is yet within the ovary;
but unlike them we believe with
a few recent observers, that it
is effected in the following
manner, viz: The Semen
immediately upon its reception

in the vagina is taken up by the mouths of small ducts which opening into the vagina run longitudinally in the walls of the uterus and are continuous with similar ducts in the Round Ligament; and through these ducts it is conducted directly into the ovary where it reaches the ovule.

In support of this we submit the following Considerations and proofs: -

1. The Corpora Lutea succeeding a fruitful coition differ from any other.

After the expulsion of the ovule from the ovary the

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ruptured walls heal up forming
a yellow cicatrix or tumour called
the Corpus Luteum. In case of
pregnancy this body is found to
be larger and denser than that
which succeeds the expulsion
of an ovule not impregnated. -

From this we infer that
the ovule while it is in the
ovary receives the impression of
the semen; and that it therefore
undergoing an unusual degree
of development, makes in its
exit from the ovary a more
extensive rupture of the
ovarian walls, which, in their
healing, make the Corpus Luteum
to be larger than that which
succeeds the ordinary evolution

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of the ovum. -

We deem it no outrage upon science to claim this to be a proof that impregnation occurs within the ovary. -

We insist further that it is unreasonable to suppose that the semen traverses the uterus and the Fallopian Tube, and penetrates the peritoneum, the substance of the ovary and the capsule of the Graafian vesicle thus reaching the ovule. Such a conclusion is a forced and unnatural one of which there is little or no proof. -

How much more reasonable to suppose that nature has provided for the semen a direct and

uninterrupted channel of
Communication with the ovule,
through the ducts we have mentioned
which lead directly from the
vagina to the interior of the ovary.

B. Internal Ovarian Pregnancy
Sometimes occurs.

Bochner
among others, has reported a clear
case of pregnancy in which the
fetus existed in the substance of
the ovary; neither the peritoneal
coat nor the membranes of the
ovary being ruptured. -

We deem this case to be a
conclusive argument against the
old theory and in support of the
one we are now advocating. -

Velpeau rather than acknowledge his ignorance would deny the existence of a well observed fact; while Gazeaux and Dejeanmes with commendable frankness acknowledge and admit that this class of pregnancies cannot be explained rationally in accordance with previous theoretical views.

But adapting the theory we advocate, in regard to the manner in which the semen reaches the ovule, there is no difficulty in understanding these phenomena.

3. Interstitial Uterine Pregnancy occurs.—

In this case the foetus is found in the walls of the uterus,

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in the fibrous interstices between
the internal and the external coats
of the Uterus. But how did it get
there? This phenomenon cannot be
explained rationally by saying that
the Fallopian Tube becomes ruptured
at the point where it passes through
the uterine parietes: for not only
has no rupture at this point been
actually demonstrated, but it is
unreasonable to suppose that a
rupture of this highly elastic
membrane would occur just at
this spot where it is rendered
strongest by the support given it
by the uterine walls.

There is no duct leading directly
into the uterine walls from the ovary
except that which we claim exists

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in the Broad Ligament. Cazeaux
admits that this species of pregnancy
seems to be inexplicable by any
other course of reasoning than that
which we adopt. -

4th - Extra Uterine pregnancies
occur where either an obliteration
or occlusion of the Fallopian Tube
is found to exist. -

Such cases are reported by
Schmidt, Meniere, Mayer, Cazeaux
and others. The Tube being
obliterated or impervious it is
evident that the semen must have
made its journey to the ovary through
some other channel than that usually
assigned to it; or these structural
changes must have taken place

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subsequently to the impregnation
of the ovule -

But the latter explanation will
not suffice. For if the inflammation
was sufficiently active to secure
either the obliteration or occlusions
of the tube in the short space of
two days required for the passage
of the ovule from the ovary to the
uterus, it must have produced
symptoms of pain, none of which
were in these cases observable.

A knowledge of the existence
and function of the ducts of which
we have made mention, removes
all difficulty of understanding the
manner in which impregnation
takes place in these cases. -

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5th. An obliteration of the Cervix
Uteri, and complete occlusions
of the Os Tenuae sometimes exist
in cases of pregnancy.

This fact is
incontrovertible. But how in such
cases was impregnation effected?
Certainly the semen did not pass
through the cavity of a Uterus
to which there was no inlet. —

It is evident nevertheless
that some channel must have
existed for the passage of the
semen; and that channel must
have led from the vagina to the
womb. That channel we contend
existed in these cases as in all
others, in the walls of the Uterus
and in the Broad Ligament. —

6th - It seems improbable that the Fallopian Tube was designed to perform the double office of transmitting the semen in one direction and the ovule in another.

It is impossible to conceive what peculiarity of structure the tube possesses which enables it to perform exactly opposite functions.

We think this must be an illustration of the principle of "Contraria Contrariis" in which we have no faith, but which would in this case, we believe, as in many others, claim results which have no foundation in reason or truth.

7th. Anatomical researches confirm the theory herein advocated.

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A canal precisely similar to that we have mentioned is known to exist in many quadrupeds as demonstrated by Gartner and M. de Blainville; whose observations were confirmed by the experiments of M. Fallois and Cazeaux. Analogy would teach us the probability of their existence in the human species. —

Baudelocque, Mad. Boivin and others have found this canal in the human female, as have Mauriceau and Dulaurens quite frequently. —

8th. Every species of Extra Uterine pregnancy and hundreds of other phenomena heretofore considered inexplicable can be explained

rationally in accordance with the theory we advocate and defend. —

It is no longer difficult to explain how impregnation results as we know it may, from coition at any time previous or subsequent to menstruation.

It is easy to understand that the male principle may reach the interior of the ovary at any time independently of menstruation.

And there is no known reason why it may not immediately fecundate the ovule, which, at the regular monthly period, will receive a fresh impulse from the vital power of the female, and bursting from its confinement start on its journey through the Fallopian Tube. —

18.
Having now considered where,
how, and when impregnation is
accomplished, we offer a few general
thoughts in regard to the character of
the change effected upon the ovule
by the impressions imparted to it
by the semen.

Conception is one of those
mysterious phenomena which at the
same time displays the delicacy,
certainty and perfection of nature's
operations, and convinces man that
in the investigation of the phenomena
of life, he is a mere child: that
he occupies a footing on the threshold
only of one grand, unlimited field of
discovery. —

How is it that a new being
results from the contact of the semen

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with the ovule? What a question
is this for those crude materialists who
endeavor to explain all phenomena
as resulting from the operation of those
known physical and chemical laws
which govern matter! Is there any
physical property existing in the
Semen, which furnishes to the
ovule the needful constituent of a
human body? If so, what is its
character; can it be seen, weighed,
measured or handled; and will it
respond to chemical tests?

It is our opinion that the
phenomenon of conception results
from the mysterious workings of the
vital, dynamic, intangible, or (if
you please to call them such) spiritual
forces, which are embodied in the

semen and in the ovule. How nearly the semen and the ovule must approximate to each other we are unable positively to determine. We can trace the semen to the interior of the Graafian vesicle; and we may for the present reasonably suppose that from this distance the semen is able to impart its vitalizing properties to the ovule.

We do not know how this combination of vital forces is effected. We only know that it does occur; and that the product of the amalgamation of these vital forces is a new being, having identity, itself possessing in its own right a vital principle which prompts it to lay hold of sustenance, secures its development,

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and is thereafter the hidden spring
of every thought and motion. -

In drawing this article to a
conclusion we observe that the
extreme delicacy of these operations,
and the fact of the grandest and
most sublime results being effected
by the action of causes inconceivably
minute, furnish us a useful hint
in regard to the phenomena which
occur in the adult body.

The causes which act to create
a new being as well as those
physiological processes which secure
its development are so delicate as
to be imperceptible except in their
results. - Does it not therefore
seem probable that there are in the

adult body causes, changes and phenomena just as minute and as far beyond the scope of human learning. -

No wonder then that physiology, pathology and therapeutics as generally taught are confused sciences; or that unsatisfactory results attend a system of medicine, which teaches that disease in the inconceivably delicate structures of the body is best met and combatted by terrific doses of crude and most virulent drugs which have neither an adaptation to the structure they are designed to heal, nor affinity for the disease producing cause. -

Such a system, based upon
principles so obscure, so sensual,
so gross, so inconsistent with all
the observable phenomena of
nature, must sooner or later
succumb to the more rational,
consistent and benign principles
which characterize the school
of Homeopathy.

(Harold C. Bartlett)